

The Hermon Connection

Vol. 27 Issue 1 • January 2019

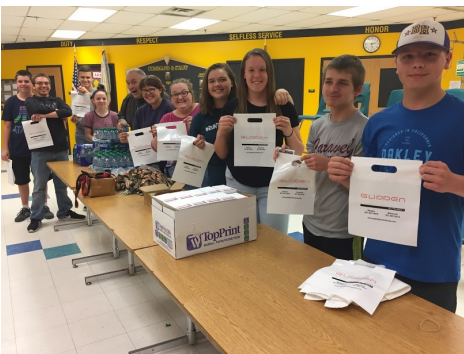
Hermon JROTC

Articles Submitted by: Hannah Morin and Megan Chamberlain

Picture Submitted by: Major (Retired) Marcel Fortier



Hermon High School's JROTC Hawk Battalion completed its annual service learning project by creating gift bags for families in the towns of Hermon, Glenburn, Carmel and Levant. The gift bags contained items such as candy, gift cards, gloves and stuffed toys. These items were generously donated by local businesses including Northeast Pain Management, Valley Home Services, Varney GMC, Studio 64, A.C. Moore, Hannaford, Governor's, Danforth's Down Home Supermarket, Chase's Family Restaurant, Chick-Fil-A and Bangor Mall Cinemas. The cadets and faculty of the Hawk Battalion sincerely wish everyone a happy holiday season.



On October 2nd, 2018, the Hermon High School Hawk Battalion Junior ROTC supported the Maine Parkinson's Society by creating gift bags for their annual meeting conference. Parkinson's Disease targets the central nervous system and causes tremors, slowed movement and loss of automatic movements. Mr. Paul Soucy, the Vice President of this society, expressed his sincerest appreciation for the support of the Hawk Battalion in creating these gift bags and stated the event was "highly successful". When asked about the experience, junior and 3rd year cadet Allyson Rush said "The experience was great knowing that we were helping and giving back to the community. It helped me understand that there are organizations out there that we can help and also appreciate the support."

The Hermon JROTC program, one of the largest in Northern New England, is an elective class based on developing citizenship and leadership skills for the cadets. The program is entering its 24th year at Hermon High School. The Hawk Battalion is instructed by Major (Retired) Marcel Fortier and First Sergeant (Retired) Rob Jenkins.

Town of Hermon
Howard Kroll Town Manager
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krollh@hermon.net, www.hermon.net

If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of
The Hermon Connection,
please send it to: scottwl@hermon.net
Deadline for submissions: February 23, 2019

From the Town Manager



THANK YOU- I want to take the opportunity to thank the many generous Hermon residents, businesses, employees and educators who helped make Thanksgiving and Christmas for some of our residents who otherwise would have gone without food and basic items such as winter gloves and jackets a reality. Their compassion made a difference and for that I express my sincere appreciation.



WINTER SEASON- Winter brings many challenges to each of us. Some of us enjoy getting outside and hitting the snowmobile trails or ski slopes right here in Hermon. Check out Hermon Mountain for their hours of operation at <https://skihermonmountain.com/> or 848-5192!



Interested in snowmobiling? You are in luck! Hermon is home to a very active Snowmobile Club who takes great pride in having well groomed trails and being positive members of the community. Please reach out to them at <http://www.sledhermon.org/contact/> or 848-2490 for details on trail conditions and upcoming events!.



SNOW PLOWING! I am happy to report Gardner Construction of Hermon is the contractor for winter maintenance on over 50 miles of town maintained roadways including sidewalks. They did a great job in the winter of 2018 and I am sure they will continue to strive and do even better than last year!

If you have any questions about the winter road maintenance I encourage you to call Ralph Shaw, Public Works Foreman, at 848-1010 ext 6513.

The Town will be seeking a new contractor to take over for this service starting in October 2019. I want to thank Gardner Construction for their 3 years of service to the town. **Job well done!**

I want to wish everyone a safe and eventful winter. You have a number of school basketball teams who represent the community with teamwork, commitment and dedication- I strongly encourage you to consider attending one of their games and supporting our student athletes! Best of luck to them this season! Check out their schedule for more details: <https://www.sites.google.com/site/hermonathletics/>

I have an open door policy and encourage the public to feel free to stop in and introduce yourself or give me a call at 848-1010 ext 6505 or email me at krollh@hermon.net. I look forward to meeting you and hearing your comments. Enjoy the winter!

2019



Father Daughter Dance

FEBRUARY 10TH
MORGAN HILL EVENT CENTER

PHOTOS BY DOUGLASS PHOTOGRAPHY BEGIN AT 4:30
DANCE IS FROM 5-7

SNACKS & DRINKS PROVIDED



REGISTRATION OPENS JANUARY 1ST ON HERMONREC.COM.
NO REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED AFTER FEBRUARY 1ST.

HOMEOWNERS: Do You Qualify For A Property Tax Exemption?

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION: Hermon residents already receiving the Homestead Property Tax Exemption in the amount of \$20,000 in your 2018 tax bill do not need to re-apply. It will stay with your resident property.

New Hermon residential property owners or residents who have relocated from a Hermon owned residential property to another in Hermon will need to apply for the homestead exemption. Go to the website listed below to download an application or pick one up at the Town Office to see if you meet the qualification requirements listed on the application.

www.hermon.net/exemption-forms-information/

All application must be returned to the Assessing office by April 1, 2019

VETERAN EXEMPTION: Any residential property owner who is a veteran 62 years or older or the widow of a veteran who would be 62 years or older on April 1, 2019; served during a recognized war time period and is not already receiving the exemption may pick up an application at the town office or download one at: www.hermon.net/exemption-forms-information/

Application must be returned to the Assessing Office by April 1, 2019 with a copy of a DD214 or other official form verifying dates of entry and separation.

HERMON BUSINESS OWNERS: Would you like to save some \$\$\$ on your personal property tax bill???

The annual Personal Property Declaration Forms, letter of instruction and personal property itemized assessment file will be mailed in February. Maine State law under Title 36 Sec. 706 Property Taxation requires by law under taxpayers to furnish the Assessor a true and perfect list of what they possess on the first day of April. The 706 or Declaration Form requests business owners to complete the forms and return to the Assessing Staff by April 15th. The completed form provides the Assessor with your current information allowing to correct the assessment list of items you may have removed or purchased during the year, or if you have sold or relocated the business. The letter also instructs businesses who qualify for the **Business Equipment Tax Exemption (BETE)** program to send in a new application with any items they feel qualify.

For additional information, please visit the Assessing Departments webpage at www.hermon.net or call us at either 848-1042 or 848-1044.

Ecotat Gardens & Arboretum

PO Box 6233, Hermon, ME 04402-6233

In addition to the beautiful display gardens, did you know Ecotat also has woodland trails? New signs made by board member and volunteer, John Selleck, are being installed and trail maps are available in the kiosk at the 25 Annis Road parking lot. Stay active and enjoy the natural beauty of Maine year-round. Bring your snowshoes or cross country skis to explore the winter scenery at Ecotat Gardens.



Ecotat members with trail signs created by member John Selleck:

Front, L to R: John Selleck, Emily Corey, John Wedgwood, Kris Selleck

Standing, L to R: Ken Gray, Tim Schoppe, John Snyder, Michelle Thayer, Curtis Kimball

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Annual Earth Day Community Clean up

Please join us for the Annual Earth Day Community Clean up event on April 27, 2019.



It is an opportunity to volunteer and make a difference in our community by cleaning up litter in our local neighborhoods, parks and roadways. Past events have been very successful! With more people, we can extend out to all parts of town.

Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Gloves, bags, safety vests and water will be provided. The event is rain or shine, so please dress accordingly. As always, trucks and trailers are needed to help assist with the pick up and transport of large items and trash bags.

We hope to cover all of Hermon. Sponsorships and donations are always welcomed to assist with the funding of gloves, bags, safety vests, water, snacks, advertising and other promotional materials.

The event is hosted by Boy Scout Troop 25 of Hermon.

For more information, please call Joseph Davis at 207-745-9439, or by email at jtmmdavis@msn.com.

The Senator's Corner

Article By: Senator Gratwick



There has been a small change in Augusta with enormous implications. Republicans and Democrats are no longer seated on opposite sides of the Senate chamber but randomly. There is no longer a 'right side' and a 'left side'. Our newly elected Senate President, Troy Jackson, decided that seating legislators regardless of party would underscore the point that we are all in Augusta for the same purpose, to do the people's business. We are not there as representatives of separate warring parties.

Individual legislators will still look at the world through different lenses, but knowing that the person next to you has a spouse, a cat, kids, and likes fishing can make a real difference. Legislators are all ordinary people, share ordinary things, and have been sent to Augusta to find a common path forward.

For me, this change is a great idea. We have had too many years of partisan posturing, heated political rhetoric, and public denigration of our opponents. We will always have a variety of viewpoints represented in government - left wing progressives, hard core conservatives, and now a centrist Governor in the person of Janet Mills. We will always have fireworks and sparkles because we look at what the State should do with different priorities. But we all love Maine and good ideas can come from the most unlikely places. When our opponents are also our buddies we can listen, be polite, and it will be a lot easier to work out a compromise acceptable to all.

I am looking forward to hard work and a productive legislative session.



Winter Driving Tips

If you find yourself hitting the roads during adverse weather conditions, consider these driving tips to stay safe during your journey:

- 1. Inspect your vehicle.** Make sure you have adequate tires on the front and rear of your vehicle with good winter tire tread. Check your tire's air pressure to make sure it is adequate.
- 2. Make sure your vehicle and windows are clear of snow and ice.** Maintain good visibility of the road and of others. Check your windshield wipers and replace them if needed. Brush the snow off of your vehicle clearing your windows as well as the hood and roof. Don't let snow fly up or slide down onto your front windshield blocking your view. If it hasn't snowed make sure all of the ice and frost are also scraped from your windows.
- 3. Drive slowly.** A good rule of thumb is to reduce your speed by 50 percent in snowy and icy conditions. Leave enough distance between you and the vehicle in front of you in case you need to brake unexpectedly. Make sure you plan your trip accordingly and give yourself some extra time to reach your destination safely.
- 4. Pack a winter travel safety kit.** Include a cell phone, ice scraper and brush, tow rope, blanket, flashlight with good batteries, lock de-icer, matches, and even some snacks and water in case you get stranded along your way.
- 5. Keep a light touch on the controls.** Smooth operation is the key to keeping control in slippery situations. Nervousness can lead to a hard clench on the steering wheel, which can result in loss of control. Consciously loosen your grasp or stretch out your fingers from time to time to help prevent that white-knuckled grip.
- 6. Know how to recover from skids.** When braking on a slippery road, it's all too easy to "lock up" your wheels by stepping on the brakes a little too hard. If you start to skid, steer the vehicle gently in the direction you want the front of your vehicle to go and don't touch your brakes. This used to be called "turning into the skid," but tests have shown that drivers often misinterpret these words in real-life situations.
- 7. If you get stuck, stay in your vehicle.** Stay warm and wait for assistance. Don't stand outside of your vehicle as another vehicle could lose control and skid in your direction. Stay in your vehicle for protection. Make sure that your exhaust pipe is clear of any obstructions, including snow and ice; if you don't, carbon monoxide gas can build up inside the vehicle. **Most of all take your time and DRIVE SAFE!!**



Put a **FREEZE** on Winter Fires

Home fires occur more in winter than in any other season. As you stay cozy and warm this winter season, be fire smart!



Half of all home heating fires occur in the months of December, January and February.



Heating equipment is involved in **1 in every 7** reported home fires and **1 in every 5** home fire deaths.



Keep anything that can burn **at least 3 feet** from any heat source like fireplaces, wood stoves, radiators or space heaters.



Keep portable generators **outside, away from windows, and as far away as possible** from your home.



Install and test carbon monoxide alarms **at least once a month**.



Plug only **1 heat-producing appliance** (such as a space heater) into an electrical outlet at a time.



Have a qualified professional clean and inspect your chimney and vents **every year**.



Store cooled ashes in a tightly covered metal container, and keep it **outside at least 10 feet** from your home and any nearby buildings.



For more information on how to prevent winter fires, visit www.usfa.fema.gov/winter and www.nfpa.org/winter.

Maine Individual Income Tax - Property Tax Fairness Credit

SUMMARY

Eligible Maine taxpayers may receive a portion of the property tax or rent paid during the tax year on the Maine individual income tax return whether they owe Maine income tax or not. *If the credit exceeds the amount of your individual income tax due for the tax year, the excess amount of credit will be refunded to you.*

Who is eligible for the Property Tax Fairness Credit? Homeowners or renters who meet all of the following requirements:

1. Were Maine residents during any part of the tax year;
2. Owned or rented a home in Maine during any part of the tax year and lived in that home during the year as a primary residence;
3. Paid property tax or rent on the primary residence in Maine during the tax year;
4. Meet certain income and property tax and/or rent paid limitations during the tax year.
5. Are not married filing separately.

How does someone apply for the refundable credit? To claim the credit, file Form 1040ME and Schedule PTFC or Schedule PTFC/STFC for the tax year during which the property tax or rent was paid.

Is assistance available to apply for the credit? Yes, Maine Revenue Services will assist taxpayers with Form 1040ME and Schedule PTFC or Schedule PTFC/STFC. For help, call 207-626-8475 weekdays 8:00am to 5:00pm or visit Maine Revenue Services at 51 Commerce Drive, Augusta, ME 04330, weekdays 8:00am 4:30pm. Closed on State recognized holidays.

Where can taxpayers get Form 1040ME and Schedule PTFC? Forms are available at <http://www.maine.gov/revenue/forms> or call 207-624-7894 to request that a printed form be mailed to you, <https://www.maine.gov/revenue/taxrelief/ptfcsummary.htm> or call 207-626-8475 for additional information.

Did You Know?

By Superintendent Gary Gonyar

Did you know... the number of students enrolled in our schools continues to grow rapidly? This year's October 1st enrollment report shows an increase of 24 students from the same time last year. Our total PK-12 enrollment is 1,280 students, which may be the greatest number of students ever in the Hermon School District (definitely since 2013-14 when we had 1,153)! That 2.94% increase over last year (11.01% increase since 2013-14) is opposite of the trend seen in many Maine school districts of decreasing student enrollment. Based on a recent enrollment study, we are projected to have 1,572 students by 2028. Our increases this year were primarily in the K-8 grades (53) with a small increase in high school tuition students (10).

Did you know... we desperately need qualified substitutes in nearly every job category in our district? If you are interested in teaching, student support, maintenance/cleaning, or transportation (driving a bus!), we may have just the job for you! Please call Administrative Assistant Jody White at 848-4084 to begin the application process or stop by to discuss these opportunities with me.

Did you know... we are continuously working on improving and updating our website with important information about our schools? Check us out for school news, contact information, policies, meeting minutes, curriculum and assessment, and a variety of other important information at <http://hsd.hermon.net/>

Finally, **a big shout out and thank you** to the following people and organizations for their incredibly generous donations to the Hermon School Department so far this year: Wanda Leavitt, Mr. and Mrs. Pinciario, Hopkins Landscaping and Paving, LLC (Mike Hopkins, owner), the Greater Hermon Community Athletic Complex Committee (Barry Pottle, Chairperson), Bangor Savings Bank (Facilities Director, Mandi Smith), the Patricia A. Duran School PTA, the Hermon Middle School Parent Council, and the Hermon High School Boosters.

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Senior Dinner

Hermon High School
6:00 to 7:30 p.m.
\$5.00 per person

Reservations please:
Contact the Rec office at 848-4075
or email wernerd@hermon.net

March 20

Boiled Dinner: Corned Beef,
Potatoes, Carrots, Cabbage,
Dessert



Reminder:

As set by the Town Council,
all tax payments
will be due in full by April 1, 2019.



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**Shari
Garland**



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Dog Licenses Due



Remember, your dog must be
licensed each year by December
31st. Residents licensing dogs after
January 31, 2019 will pay a state
mandated late fee of \$25.00 per
dog. Licenses are available at the Hermon
Town Office. You may also license your dog
online at: [https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/
online/dog_license/index.pl](https://www1.maine.gov/cgi-bin/online/dog_license/index.pl)

Please call the Town Office
with any questions at 848-1010.

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BARRY POTTLE BECOMES ATA CHAIRMAN

Article & Picture submitted by: Vickey Witham

Barry Pottle became the 74th Chairman of the American Trucking Association (ATA) in Austin, TX on October 30, 2018. Many family members and friends made the trip to celebrate the occasion.

Owning a trucking company in the State of Maine is no easy task. For years, the paper mills were the lifeblood for the truckload carrier. Two of those paper mills went out of business in 2002 along with Service Merchandise, another of Pottle's lucrative customers. During a recent interview Pottle recalled, "it woke us up from the standpoint that we really needed to get more diversified. It was a good thing I was financially stable at the time, or it would have put us under. It took us probably two years to regroup." Today, Pottle's Transportation remains a vibrant, highly profitable company producing healthy revenues. Pottle bought the company from his father in 1988 and has built it to its current size of 180 power units, 560 trailers and 3 terminals.

Pottle's top priority as Chairman will be to work on improving the image of truck drivers. "They don't get enough respect," Pottle said.

Barry grew up and went to school in Hermon where he and his wife Suzanne still live today. People often describe Pottle as generous, passionate, knowledgeable and a man with a sense of humor. Pottle is known by family, employees and city officials as a man who likes to get things done at work and in the community – but quickly. Brian Walsh, longtime principal of Hermon High School said Pottle is always interested in ways to make Bangor and Hermon better places to live. Several years ago, Walsh went to Pottle for help in improving the school's football and field hockey fields and tennis courts. Before he knew it, the project was off the ground and underway. For more than a decade, Pottle has also been an organizer and participant in Wreaths Across America. Not serving in the military himself, Pottle felt this was a way to give back to our Veterans.

Barry Pottle loves to serve his company and his community in Hermon, Maine which remains at his core. "Hermon is a great place to bring up a family, a great way of life, but to run a business, it's tough," Pottle added. "I've always said that if you can survive here in Maine, you can survive anywhere. We're at the end of the world when it comes to trucking."

Pottle will serve as Chairman for one year.



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Postal Customer

January Senior Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <i>Happy New Year</i>	2	3 Board/Card Games Boulter Place 12:00 p.m. Free	4 Lunch Chopsticks Center St. Bangor 12:00pm	5
6	7 Bowling Family Fun Lanes 12:00 pm \$2.50 per game Shoes are free	8	9 Movie Boulter Place 12:30 Free Light Snack provided	10 Board/Card Games Boulter Place 12:00 p.m. Free	11	12
13	14 Bowling Family Fun Lanes 12:00 pm \$2.50 per game Shoes are free	15 Craft Cup Cozy Boulter Place 10:00am Snack Provided Free	16	17 Board/Card Games Boulter Place 12:00 p.m. Free	18	19
20	21 Bowling Family Fun Lanes 12:00 pm \$2.50 per game Shoes are free	22 Lunch Nicky's Diner Union St. Bangor 12:00pm	23 High Stakes Bingo Boulter Place 1:00pm \$0.10 per card	24 Board/Card Games Boulter Place 12:00 p.m. Free	25	26
27	28 Bowling Family Fun Lanes 12:00 pm \$2.50 per game Shoes are free	29	30	31 Board/Card Games Boulter Place 12:00 p.m. Free		

Contact Hermon Recreation at 848-4075 for more information. *Subject to change